



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LANSING

DON KOIVISTO
DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As I approach my first "fair season" as director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, I am thrilled to join over 4 million Michigan residents in attending our many fairs.

Michigan's agriculture industry is thriving and leading our state in economic growth; contributing over \$63.7 billion to our state's economy and employing more than one million Michigan residents each year. With 87 local, county and state fairs, these events are a vital part to Michigan's economy and help preserve our agricultural heritage. Fairs provide safe, family-focused entertainment which help celebrate our communities and our great bounty of diverse agricultural commodities.

Nearly 50,000 Michigan youth participate in livestock and community arts exhibitions annually. Many of Michigan's local businesses and families support these young people's efforts through participation in youth livestock auctions held at each of our fairs. Last year, total auction sales were nearly \$13 million! Many of our exhibitors use the money raised during the auctions to help fund their college education. I am pleased that the department continues to be a partner through financial support of premiums for exhibitors.

I encourage you to join me in celebrating a 160-year Michigan tradition by attending an agricultural fair this summer. You and your family will enjoy the traditional exhibits, the latest thrill rides, and, of course, some very unique fair food.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Koivisto".

Don Koivisto
Director